

*Reaches out to local officials with information on how to apply for grants*

Washington, DC - Congressman John Adler yesterday voted to pass the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act. As local emergency responders face decreasing budgets and struggle to provide services, this legislation reauthorizes critically important funding for firefighter assistance programs.

"Keeping our communities safe has to be a top priority," Congressman Adler said. "These grants will provide local first responders with necessary funds to save jobs, keep our emergency responders on the streets, and protect our families."

This bill reauthorizes two important firefighter assistance programs, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program for the next five years.

Since the AFG program was created in 2000, nearly five billion dollars has gone directly to fire departments to purchase equipment, training, fire trucks, and other resources. Since the SAFER program was created in 2004, nearly \$700 million has gone to fire departments to help hire additional firefighters. The grants are awarded to volunteer, professional, and hybrid fire stations.

Today, Congressman Adler sent letters to local officials and fire chiefs throughout South Jersey and the shore area offering information and assistance in the application process. Earlier this year, Congressman Adler hosted a training session to help elected officials and local emergency responders apply for these grants in the coming year.